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In re Application of:

Application No.: 09/923,801

Group Art Unit: 1731

Examiner: Unassigned

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(b), Applicants bring to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO-1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the filing date of the above-referenced application and before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits for the above-referenced application.

A copy of each listed document is attached.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed document and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

The following is listed on the accompanying PTO-1449 and are in a language other than English.

1. PCT Patent Publication No. WO 00/44678. The relevance of this document is shown in the English-language abstract.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and do not constitute an admission that the listed document is material or constitute “prior art.” If it should be

determined that the listed document do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such document.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed document, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: November 16, 2001
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	Applicants: Seishi FUJIWARA et al.	
	Filing Date: August 8, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1731

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

Date Considered

Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.